



**U.S. Department of Justice**

**Stephen J. Murphy  
United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001  
211 West Fort Street  
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277  
Fax: (313) 226-3561*

**For Immediate Release:**

**Contact:** Gina Balaya (313) 226-9758

Dec 7, 2007

---

**EVENT: Guilty Verdict**

**Defendant: Brian Garrett et al**

**TWO DETROIT RESIDENTS FOUND GUILTY  
OF DRUG AND MONEY LAUNDERING CHARGES**

---

The two remaining defendants of 39 charged in connection with the "Black Mafia Family" (BMF) drug trafficking organization were found guilty today on drug distribution and money laundering charges, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced. The other 37 defendants previously pleaded guilty.

Brian Garrett, 39, and Benjamin Smith, 37, of Detroit, were found guilty today by a federal jury in United States District Court before Judge Avern Cohn. The jury deliberated for less than eight hours before returning the verdict, concluding a seven-day trial.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Today's convictions mark the end of the notorious 'Black Mafia Family' (BMF) drug organization, which was once a nationwide syndicate. Many neighborhoods across the country are safer now that such an extensive drug organization has been dismantled and millions of dollars of its drug proceeds taken away."

According to the charges in the indictment, Garrett and Smith were part of the "Black Mafia Family" (BMF) drug organization, which dealt in multi-kilo quantities of cocaine in the Detroit metropolitan area beginning in the early 1990's. Since 2000, law enforcement officers from across the country have seized over 476 kilograms of cocaine destined for distribution by this organization. Several million dollars in cash was seized by law enforcement officers between October, 1997 and June 2005. The members of this organization, using the illegal proceeds of their narcotic sales, purchased and leased numerous luxury vehicles, acquired and sold real property and purchased jewelry while concealing the true source and nature of the funds involved in the transaction through false names and nominee purchasers. To date, over \$18 million in assets has been seized and forfeited.

Evidence showed that Garrett transported thousands of dollars to various places including California. The evidence indicated that Garrett was arrested in Texas while transporting over \$700,000. In addition, the evidence showed that Smith transported substantial amounts of cocaine and currency to New York, St. Louis, and other locations across the country.

This case was investigated by the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF), an initiative of the Department of Justice, involving multiple federal agencies including, DEA and IRS along with numerous state and local agencies from across the country.

Garrett faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$500,000 fine and Smith faces up to 10 years in prison and \$4 million dollars. U.S. Attorney Murphy commended the excellent investigative work of the DEA and IRS, as well as the trial team of Assistant U.S. Attorneys Dawn Ison, Mike Leibson and Julie Beck.